To Elizabeth Pease Nichol.

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Royal Hotel, Blackfriars' Bridge,
London, June 17, 1877.

My Dear Friend:

What is more evanescent, or at best more uncertain, than this earthly life of ours?

You have already been apprised of the sudden translation of our dear friend Mary Carpenter, at Bristol, on Thursday night last. On that day — perhaps it was her last epistle — she wrote to me, expressive of the pleasure she felt at the prospect of welcoming me to the hospitality of "Red Lodge House," and wishing to know whether the arrangements she was making with reference to my visit would be agreeable to me. I received the letter at Oxford yesterday morning (via

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London), and had scarcely read it before, on taking up the Daily News of Saturday, I saw the announcement of her death!

How quickly she has followed her beloved brother Philip! and what a joyous surprise must be their sudden re-union "where there is no more death"! It is a double bereavement to relatives and friends; but it is consoling to think that

"Life is real, life is earnest,
And the grave is not its goal;
'Dust thou art, to dust returnest,'
Was not spoken of the soul."

I believe that there is boundless scope for active philanthropy and progressive improvement in the life hereafter as well as here; and, therefore, that these earnest souls will still be busy in the broad field of beneficent usefulness.

Nevertheless, their removal leaves vacancies not easily to be supplied.

I have received a letter from Professor Nichol, at Glasgow, kindly inviting me and my son to partake of his hospitality while we remain in that city. I have written to him, accepting the invitation, provided we shall really put him to no inconvenience. Two or three days will probably be all the time we can give to Glasgow — somewhere about the first week in August.

I am so desirous of seeing you that the time will seem quite long before I can have that pleasure. Only think that it is thirty-seven years since our acquaintance and friendship began! How many sharp bereavements, how many wonderful changes have been included in that period!

Yours, affectionately

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

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